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slender, gracious, decidedly alluring, owing to sports and to the independent life led since infancy. The eyes and the hair are superb, the color recalling that of the English; but, unfortunately, the teeth are often large and very frequently filled with gold." The American diseases are enumerated as tuberculosis; stomach trouble, induced by the use of ice water, spiced foods, sometimes by alcoholic liquors, the habit of midday meals, swift living, and constant attention to work; nervousness due to a noisy and exciting work; and appendicitis.

These are given as types of estimates of the American. It is not desirable to judge the entire work by these, for in the descriptive parts of the text, and it is mostly that, the writers are not influenced so much by their own ideals of life and appear more at home in interpreting topography and climate than they do in dissertating on character.

ROBERT M. BROWN

#### TRAVELS IN ALASKA

HUDSON STUCK. *Voyages on the Yukon and Its Tributaries: A Narrative of Summer Travel in the Interior of Alaska.* xvi and 397 pp.; maps, ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1917. \$4.50. 9 x 6 inches.

Dr. Stuck is a Protestant Episcopal clergyman who has lived many years in Alaska. All he has written about that country is worth while because he is a keen observer who has traveled thousands of miles there, has studied the things he describes, and strives for accuracy in all he writes. He expresses regret that he lacks scientific geographical training; but he has qualities that make his books valuable to all readers who seek reliable accounts of Alaska. He is a keen observer, mixes common sense with all he writes, seeks nothing but the truth, and records what he sees in a way to hold attention and interest.

Dr. Stuck traveled in his steam launch *Pelican* along the Yukon River and its tributaries for ten summers, covering in that time about 30,000 miles and noting all the way the things that seemed to him most important, such as the regimen of the waterways, the forests, plains, flora, fauna, climatic conditions, mines and miners, settlements, natives, and so on. We may consider this book as a fairly complete summary of Alaska, in most of its aspects.

Only a few bits of the information the book contains can be mentioned here. Dawson, the capital of the Yukon Territory, is in process of steady decay because the placer diggings are exhausted and no quartz veins have yet been discovered to prolong its life. The town had extensive development; it contained many substantial buildings and attractive residences and gardens, but it will meet the fate that befalls most placer-mining towns after their alluvial gold is exhausted. Forty Mile, Circle City, and other famous placer regions are also nearly exhausted.

Above its White River affluent the Yukon is a clear, pellucid stream; White River heads in glacial brooks, and its turbid waters so becloud the Yukon as completely to destroy its limpidity. At the mouth of the Tanana tributary, darkened with the wastage that the glaciers at its source have dug from the soil, the Yukon turns nearly black. What Dr. Stuck saw, in the course of years, of the tremendous power of ice to grind down mountains and carve out valleys, convinced him that glaciers have been far more potent than earthquakes and volcanoes and most other agencies in changing the surface of the earth.

It is only of late years that the name Yukon River has been applied to all its variously named stretches. It was discovered piecemeal, and explorers gave special names to the parts they reached, not knowing that they constituted a continuous stream.

Years ago, our newspapers had much to say of the agricultural possibilities of Alaska. Dr. Stuck does not share these sanguine views. It has been proved, he admits, that hardy and early varieties of grain and garden vegetables may be ripened. But truck farming is profitable only in the neighborhood of the mines. When mining shall give out remote Alaska can never hope to raise crops for export in competition with other countries.

CYRUS C. ADAMS

#### LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY

W. W. SWEET. *A History of Latin America.* 283 pp.; maps, diagrs., ills., bibliogr., index. The Abingdon Press, New York and Cincinnati. 1919. \$3.00. 8½ x 6 inches.

Teachers of Latin American history have often sought, unsuccessfully, for just such a book as this. There has been no comprehensive work in English, we believe, that would serve as a textbook for the courses now being given in many of our colleges and universities. This is true particularly regarding the colonial period. Over a half of the present volume is given to that field. In its wealth of detail it will also be of value as a reference work to the student and to the general reader. For the latter